

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Department of Employment Services

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR



DEBORAH A. CARROLL  
DIRECTOR

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Media Contact: Christina Tucker  
(202) 671-1163 (O)  
(202) 607-0542 (C)

### **District of Columbia Economy Adds 700 Jobs in March**

*District's Unemployment Rate at 7.7 Percent*

**Washington, DC** – The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services reported today that the preliminary March job estimates show an increase of 700 jobs, for a total of 759,200 jobs in the District. The private sector increased by 600 jobs, while the public sector payrolls increased by 100 jobs. The numbers are drawn from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) through its monthly survey of the District of Columbia's employers.

The District's seasonally adjusted preliminary unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in March. The number of unemployed District residents was down 600 from 30,100 in February 2015 to 29,500 in March 2015.

Based on more complete reporting from employers, previously released February estimates were revised downward to show an over-the-month (January-February) total non-farm employment increase of 5,600 jobs. The February revised unemployment rate is 7.8 percent which is unchanged from the February preliminary rate.

#### ***Employment Overview***

- ❖ Trade, Transportation, and Utilities increased by 100 jobs, after a decrease of 400 jobs in February. With employment at 31,400, jobs are up by 1,600 or 5.4 percent from a year ago.
- ❖ Professional and Business Services increased by 1,100 jobs, after an increase of 800 jobs in February. With employment at 161,300, jobs are up by 6,100 or 3.9 percent from a year ago.
- ❖ Leisure and Hospitality decreased by 100 jobs, after an increase of 600 jobs in February. With employment at 67,600, jobs are down by 700 or -1.0 percent over the year.
- ❖ Financial Activities increased by 200 jobs, after having no change in jobs in the prior month. With employment at 30,600, jobs are up by 600 or 2.0 percent from one year ago.
- ❖ Educational and Health Services decreased by 700 jobs, after an increase of 4,900 jobs in the prior month. With employment at 130,700, jobs are up by 1,400 or 1.1 percent from a year ago.
- ❖ Other Services increased by 200 jobs, after having no change in jobs the prior month. With employment at 70,700, jobs are up by 1,000 or 1.4 percent from a year ago.
- ❖ Construction had no over-the-month job change, after having no change in jobs in February. With

employment at 13,900, there was no change in jobs from a year ago.

- ❖ Information decreased by 200 jobs, after an increase of 100 jobs in the prior month. With employment at 16,900, jobs are down by 200 from one year ago.
- ❖ Manufacturing had no over-the-month change in jobs, after having no change in jobs in the prior month. With employment at 1,000, there was no change in jobs from one year ago.

### ***Labor Force Overview***

- ❖ The number of employed District residents decreased by 600 over the month to 354,700. The civilian labor force decreased by 1,200 to 384,200.
- ❖ One year ago, total employment was 343,300 and the civilian labor force was 372,200. The number of unemployed was 28,900, and the unemployment rate was 7.8 percent.

NOTES: *The March 2015 final and April 2015 preliminary unemployment rate and survey of jobs data for the District will be released on Wednesday, May 27, 2015. Historical jobs and labor force estimates for the District of Columbia and detailed labor market information is available at: <http://does.dc.gov/page/labor-statistics>*

**Technical Notes:** Estimates of industry employment and unemployment levels are arrived through the use of two different monthly surveys.

Industry employment data are derived through the Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey, a monthly survey of business establishments conducted by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the US Department of Labor, which provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data broken down by industry for the nation as a whole, all states, and most major metropolitan areas (often referred to as the “establishment” survey).

Resident employment and unemployment data are mainly derived from the District’s portion of the national Current Population Survey (CPS), a household survey conducted each month by the US Census Bureau under contract with BLS, which provides input to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (often referred to as the “household” survey).

Both industry and household estimates are revised each month based on additional information from updated survey reports compiled by BLS. In addition, these estimates are benchmarked (revised) annually based on actual counts from the District’s Unemployment Compensation Law administrative records and other data.

*Data reflects 2014 annual benchmark revisions.*

*Industry employment data is not seasonally adjusted.*